LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An isolated mammalian c-kit-/c-met- cardiomyocyte precursor cell of skeletal muscle ~~muscular~~ origin, wherein the cardiomyocyte precursor cell is between about 3 μm and 10 μm in diameter.

2. (Original) The cell of claim 1, wherein the cell is a human cell.

3. (Original) The cell of claim 1, wherein the cell is a mouse cell.

4. (Original) The cell of claim 1, wherein the cell is from a fetus, a child, or an adult.

5. (Original) The cell of claim 1, wherein the cell is in suspension.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The cell of claim ~~6~~1, wherein the cell is approximately 4 μm in diameter.

8. (Original) The cell of claim 1, wherein the cell differentiates into a cardiomyocyte.

9. (Original) The cell of claim 1, wherein the cell differentiates into a spontaneously beating cardiomyocyte.

10. (Original) The cell of claim 1, wherein the cell is transduced with a viral vector.

11. (Currently amended) The cell of claim ~~1~~10 wherein the viral vector comprises a heterologous nucleic acid.

12. (Original) The cardiomyocyte of claim 8, wherein the cardiomyocyte expresses GATA-4, troponin-T, L-type calcium channel, or Nkx2.5, or a combination thereof.

13-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) A mammalian c-kit-/c-met- cardiomyocyte precursor cell of ~~muscular~~ skeletal muscle origin isolated ~~according to~~ by a ~~the~~ method ~~of claim 13~~comprising:

separating skeletal muscle cells of less that 40 μm in diameter from a suspension of cells;

culturing the skeletal muscle cells in a tissue culture medium on a solid substrate; and

isolating the c-kit-/c-met- cardiomyocyte precursor cells, wherein the c-kit-/c-met- cardiomyocyte precursor cells are between about 3 μm and 10 μm in diameter and are in suspension in the tissue culture medium.

26-42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising mammalian c-kit-/c-met- cardiomyocyte precursor cells of skeletal muscle ~~muscular~~ origin in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the cardiomyocyte precursor cells are between about 3 μm and 10 μm in diameter.

44-48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently amended) A kit ~~for promoting cardiomyocyte differentiation~~, comprising a container containing a purified population of mammalian c-kit-/c-met- cardiomyocyte precursor cells of skeletal muscle origin, wherein the cardiomyocyte precursor cells are between about 3 μm and 10 μm in diameter~~of muscular origin~~, and instructions for growth or differentiation of the cardiomyocyte precursor cells.

50. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 49, further comprising a container comprising a differentiation medium ~~containing a growth factor, a container containing a culture medium, instructions for using the kit, or any combination thereof~~.